

Index-Galena Road, Mile Post 6.4 to 6.9

Snohomish County is working on the design of a project to repair the flood-damaged section of Index-Galena Road, east of the Town of Index.

During the most recent public open house on February 1, 2012, the project was at the 30% design phase and the comment period for NEPA environmental scoping had just begun. The public had an opportunity to advise the county on what to consider in planning the project and to address in the environmental review documents.

You're invited to a March 27 Open House

The project is currently at the 60% design phase. Public and agency comments, additional field work, and ongoing engineering are helping fill in more of the details of the design. The meeting will be an opportunity to learn about progress that has been made since our last meeting in February 1, 2012.



The proposed design has been modified

A significant modification that is now reflected in the plans is a narrower road to match the existing alignment. This was made possible by the Federal Highway Administration's approval to use design standards appropriate for roads with low traffic volumes. These standards allow for more flexibility in travel lane and shoulder widths and provide the ability to shift the placement of alignments.

The design engineers have been working closely with staff geologists to fit the road more precisely along

the alignment to avoid solid rock formations and slide-prone areas where possible, and to identify other design measures that will reduce impacts.



In addition, the U.S. Forest Service has approved use of a portion of Trout Creek Road for the proposed new Index-Galena Road alignment. This approval makes it possible to move the alignment out of the floodplain and channel migration zone at mile post 6.4.

NEPA Scoping Comments

In June 2012, Snohomish County provided responses to citizen comments received during NEPA Scoping. You can view the comments and responses on the Index-Galena 6.4-6.9 project website (www.snoco.org, search Index-Galena). Several of the key comments we received are listed below:

Q: Can the new section of Index-Galena Road be designed to match the existing roadway's width, rural character, and surrounding forest lands?



A: The FHWA Guidelines for Geometric Design of Very Low-Volume Local Roads (ADT \leq 400), 1st Edition, has been approved for use in designing the new alignment and will allow for a narrower footprint and some latitude in placement of the alignment.

Q: Consider providing river access near the Mile Post 6.9 washout. This area has been a long established access point for either the beginning or end of kayak and rafting trips.

A: During the summer of 2012 a gate was removed at Mile Post 13, and access beyond that point was opened to seasonal traffic. The project team is coordinating with the U.S Forest Service to provide river access near milepost 6.9.



Q: Can all roadway debris from the washout be removed from the river, and the area restored with native plantings? Take into consideration that the North Fork Skykomish River is a recommended Wild and Scenic River.

A: The County will remove as much debris as is feasible and is consistent with Wild and Scenic River considerations and with standards contained in the Mt. Baker Snoqualmie National Forest Plan. These standards will apply to the project design and the planned restoration mitigation.

The Environmental Review Process

The project environmental and design teams are continuing to co-ordinate with each other to identify key issues and impacts that need to be addressed in the design. This will help reduce the overall impact of the project. Mitigation planning is also part of the design process and will address impacts that are unavoidable.

What Happens After this update meeting?

Environmental reports are nearing completion and will be submitted to the FHWA, U.S. Forest Service, and WSDOT for review. As each report is reviewed and approved by the U.S. Forest Service, WSDOT and FHWA, it will be posted on the project Web site. These reports will be summarized in the NEPA EA document. Endangered Species Act and Section 106 National Historic Preservation Act consultation will also occur at the same time as report submittals.

Issues that the team will address in the EA include: drainage; hydrology; where retaining walls will be needed; geologic issues; and impacts to fish, wildlife habitat, plants, wetlands, and visual quality. Environmental reports that are part of NEPA Environmental Review include: Wildlife; Visual Quality; Wetlands; Biological Assessment; Land Use; Recreation; Geology; Soils and Groundwater; and Surface Water.



When Will Additional Information Be Available?

The public will have an opportunity to review and comment on the NEPA EA when all of the studies are completed and the EA is issued. This is anticipated to be sometime in 2014.

County is also working on two other projects in the area

- 1. Slide repair project at Index Galena M. P. 5.8 northeast of the Town of Index.
- 2. Replace Howard Creek Bridge #496, located on Index-Galena Road at approximately mile post 9. The bridge is primarily a timber structure built in 1976. The county has received federal funds to help pay for the cost of replacement; construction is planned for 2016.

For more information visit the project's web page: www.snoco.org, search road projects.



**Snohomish County
Public Works**

Communications

3000 Rockefeller, M/S 607
Everett, WA 98201

**Index-Galena Road
Public Open House**

You're invited

**Public Open House
March 27, 2013**

6:00-7:30 p.m.

**Park Place Middle School
1408 W Main Street
Monroe, WA**

Snohomish County Contact

Tina Hokanson

Snohomish County Public Works
3000 Rockefeller Ave., M/S 607
Everett, WA 98201
425-388-3789
tina.hokanson@snoco.org

Index-Galena Web page

www.snoco.org, search
"Index-Galena"

Scan Me

